SINGING AND THE WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY OF THE CARROLLS. IT WAS HARD TO LEAVE EVERY PLACE WE VISITED. OUR NEXT STOP WAS WITH MR. RUNYON AND LET ME TELL YOU HE MAY BE BUSY IN HIS POST OFFICE, BUT HE SURE HAS A LOT OF FLORIDA HIBISCUS. I COUNTED OVER TWENTY-FIVE AND THEN I STOPPED. THE FIRST BUSH THAT GREETED ME WAS "LATIN RHYTHM". HIS BACK YARD WAS ENCLOSED BY A BRICK WALL AND AFTER GOING AROUND THE GARDEN WE CAME TO HIS GREEN HOUSE AND YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY ROOTINGS IN CANS - IT REALLY LOOKED LIKE ONE OF FLORIDA'S NURSERIES. A CHARMING FAMILY THE RUNYONS AND I HATED TO LEAVE, BUT DARKNESS WAS CREEPING UPON US AND WE HAD TO RETURN TO THE HOTEL. MY NEXT CALL WAS TROPICAL NURSERY, 1925 CENTRAL BOULEVARD (NON-MEMBERS), BUT FOUND WE HAD MUTUAL FRIENDS IN ORLANDO, MR. FOSTER, THE EXOTIC PLANT MAN. THE OWNERS OF THE NURSERY (HUSBAND AND WIFE) SPENT A LOT OF TIME TAKING ME OVER THE GROUNDS AND I'VE LOST MY NOTES AND CANNOT REMEMBER THEIR NAMES, BUT WILL FIND IT AND MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD OF IT. THEY ASKED ME TO SEND APPLICATION BLANK AND LITERATURE ON OUR SOCIETY.

MY NEXT TOWN WAS WESLACO, AND I VISITED MR. LINK OF LINK FLORAL NURSERY. MR. LINK WAS GETTING READY TO LEAVE THE NURSERY, BUT HE TOOK TIME OUT AND GAVE US A TOUR OVER THE NURSERY AND GARDENS. THE COLD WEATHER (SIX WEEKS BEFORE) HAD DAMAGED A LOT OF HIS PLANTS, BUT THE ENTHUSIASM WAS STILL THERE. I WAS UNABLE TO REACH MRS. R. A. DENNISON AND THE OTHER MEMBERS. MY NEXT STOP WAS IN PHARR NEAR MCALLEN AND SINCE WE COULD NOT GO TO MCALLEN I CALLED ONE OF THE NURSERIES GIVEN ME BY MR. BARTON (CORPUS CHRISTI), THE BARRERA NURSERY AND TALKED TO MR. BARRERA AND HE ALSO ASKED ME TO SEND APPLICATION BLANK WITH INFORMATION ON AHS. SORRY I COULDN'T CONTACT MR. C. S. WAUGH OF MCALLEN (MEMBER) ALSO MRS. H. SHUCKMAN OF HARLINGEN. WE HAD REACHED THE POINT ON THE MAP WHERE WE

HAD TO TURN BACK NORTH AND HEAD BACK TO MATAGORDA, BUT NOT FORGETTING SOME CORRESPONDENCE I HAD SOMETIME AGO FROM THE STORM NURSERY IN FREMONT, TEXAS WE STOPPED AND VISITED WITH JUDGE STORM AND MRS. STORM AND THEIR LOVELY FAMILY OF FIVE BOYS AND GIRLS. THE STORM NURSERY COVERS SEVENTY-NINE ACRES, FIELD PLANTS AND GREEN HOUSES; CHARLIE WAS BUSY IN AND OUT OF THE GREEN HOUSES WHILE I WALKED AND TALKED AND ASKED QUESTIONS. AFTER OUR TOUR OVER THE GROUNDS JUDGE STORM TOOK US TO HIS HOME AND SHOWED SLIDES OF BEAUTIFUL HIBISCUS TAKEN IN THE PARNELL AND BASS GARDENS IN MIAMI. BRUCE, I FELT JUST LIKE I WAS BACK HOME SEEING YOU STANDING THERE WITH ALL THE HIBISCUS YOU COULD HOLD AND THE OLD BACK DOOR STEP LOOKED MIGHTY FAMILIAR. WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH THE STORMS WE HAD TO RUSH ON AND GET INTO MATAGORDA BEFORE NIGHT. THANKS TO OUR GOOD FRIENDS MR. & MRS. T. A. GIBSON (MEMBERS) WE WERE ABLE TO COVER ALL THIS TERRITORY BY CAR AND VISIT IN THE TOWNS AS WE CAME TO THEM.

BILLIE S. CALAIS

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